



NEWS RELEASE

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Sept. 18, 2014

Gang Members Sentenced to Prison for Whittier Murder

Two Whittier Trece gang members were sentenced today for the killing of a teen in 2012, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Brock Lunsford of the Hardcore Gang Division said Eudiel Eddie Lopez, 21, was sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison. Lopez's co-defendant, Daniel Cesar Stopani, 20, was sentenced to 40 years to life in state prison.

On Sept. 4, a jury convicted Lopez of first-degree murder, while Stopani was found guilty of second-degree murder in case VA124204. Additionally, jurors found true gun and gang allegations for both defendants.

At today's sentencing, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge John Torribio ordered the defendants to pay restitution in the amount of \$5,000 to the Victims Compensation Board and \$5,885.13 to the victim's mother for funeral expenses and lost wages.

The prosecutor said a month before the killing, Lopez and the victim, Michael Soto, 17, had a gang-related exchange.

On March 26, 2012, Lopez and Stopani approached Soto near Painter Avenue and Mulberry Drive in Whittier. The prosecutor said Stopani punched Soto and then Lopez shot the victim several times.

After the shooting, the two defendants fled the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital for treatment, but ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Several hours after the incident, authorities located Lopez and arrested him in connection with the fatal shooting. More than a year later, Stopani was charged in connection with the killing.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.